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To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft settlement

Microsoft has been a significant contributor to the technology innovation that has propelled the American economy forward in recent years. Yes, Microsoft has been a very good competitor and has managed to outperform some of it's competition. As a result Microsoft and it's stockholders have been able to make a profit on their at risk investments. Isn't that what a free market economy is all about? Why should Microsoft be punished so severely simply because it has been successful? Does the Department Of Justice want to handicap all successful Companies like a horse race so that their success is reduced to the lowest common denominator, i.e., the speed of the slowest horse in the race? What does this do for the US economy? Slow it down so that the US economy cannot even compete in the world economy? Doesn't this undermine the basis of competition and free enterprise? Does this mean that the making of a profit is a dirty word?

Microsoft may have abused it's leadership at some levels, although I seriously doubt that its abusive conduct has been any greater than most of its competition. Nevertheless an agreement has been reached with Microsoft that significantly reduces and handicaps its competitive advantage. The agreement is more than fair - lets move and see what Microsoft's competitors can do to improve their competitiveness now that the weight has been added to the leading horse.

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Sincerely,
Patrick R. Mahan